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SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 91 (a)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of its resolutions 44/214 of 22 December 1989, 46/212 of 20 December 1991 and all other relevant resolutions of the United Nations relating to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness and isolation from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks impose serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development efforts of the land-locked developing countries,

Recognizing also that fifteen of the land-locked developing countries are also classified by the United Nations as least developed countries and that their geographical situation is an added constraint on their overall ability to cope with the challenges of development,

Recognizing further that most transit countries are themselves developing countries facing serious economic problems, including the lack of adequate infrastructure in the transport sector,

Recalling that measures to deal with the transit problems of land-locked developing countries require closer and even more effective cooperation and collaboration between those countries and their transit neighbours,

Recalling the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, adopted on 10 December 1982, 1/

Recognizing the important role played by bilateral cooperative arrangements and regional and subregional cooperation and integration in comprehensively solving the transit problems of the land-locked developing countries and improving the transit-transport systems in land-locked and transit developing countries,

Noting the importance of strengthening the existing international support measures with a view to further addressing the problems of land-locked developing countries,

1. Reaffirms the right of access of land-locked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit States by all means of transport, in accordance with international law;

2. Also reaffirms that transit developing countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for land-locked developing countries should in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

3. Calls upon both the land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours, within the spirit of South-South cooperation, including bilateral cooperation, to implement measures to strengthen further their cooperative and collaborative efforts in dealing with their transit problems;

4. Appeals once again to all States, international organizations and financial institutions to implement, as a matter of urgency and priority, the specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries envisaged in the previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/ in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly and contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and in the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; 3/

5. Invites the land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours to intensify further their cooperative arrangements for the development of transit infrastructures, institutions and services to facilitate

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1/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

2/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

3/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

a more rapid movement of goods in transit with financial and technical assistance from donors and financial agencies;

6. Emphasizes that assistance for the improvement of transport-transit facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the land-locked and transit developing countries and that donor assistance should consequently take into account the requirements for long-term restructuring of the economies of the land-locked developing countries;

7. Urges donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions to provide land-locked and transit developing countries with appropriate financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications;

8. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to further promote, as appropriate, subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes and to expand its support in the transport and communications sectors to the land-locked and transit developing countries and its technical cooperation for development geared towards promoting national and collective self-reliance among them;

9. Endorses the report of the Meeting of Governmental Experts from Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions 4/ and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

10. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to organize, in close collaboration with the regional commissions, a symposium, to be convened in 1994, for land-locked and transit developing countries and representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions to address specific regional problems in implementing the recommendations of the meeting mentioned in paragraph 9 above;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to convene in 1995 another meeting of governmental experts from land-locked and transit developing countries and representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions to review progress in the development of the transit systems in the land-locked and transit developing countries and to recommend further appropriate action, to be forwarded to the Trade and Development Board and to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

12. Takes note with appreciation of the results of the specific studies on transit issues prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and encourages the international community to make use of those studies, as appropriate, when devising strategies to address the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries;

4/ TD/B/40 (1) 2-TD/B/LDC/AC.14.

13. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to submit the results of the above-mentioned studies to the symposium mentioned in paragraph 10 above for further follow-up, as appropriate;

14. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to seek extrabudgetary resources from the United Nations Development Programme and other voluntary contributions for the purpose mentioned in paragraph 8 above;

15. Notes with appreciation the contribution of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in formulating international measures to deal with the special problems of the land-locked developing countries, and urges the Conference, inter alia, to keep under constant review the evolution of transport-transit infrastructure facilities, institutions and services, monitor the implementation of agreed measures, collaborate in all relevant initiatives, including those of private sector and non-governmental organizations, and serve as a focal point for cross-regional issues of interest to land-locked developing countries;

16. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to take appropriate measures to enhance the capacity of the Conference, within existing resources for the biennium 1994-1995, in the area dealing with land-locked developing countries so as to ensure the effective implementation of the activities called for in the present resolution and of existing measures in support of those countries;

17. Urges the international community and the preparatory bodies of all relevant forthcoming major meetings and conferences of the United Nations system to take into account, in the preparation of documentation, the specific needs and requirements of land-locked developing countries and the participation of those countries in such meetings and conferences;

18. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries, 5/ and the action taken by the Trade and Development Board related to those particular needs and problems, as set forth in the reports of the Board on the second part of its thirty-ninth session, 6/ and on the first part of its fortieth session, 7/ and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare another report, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution, for submission to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

5/ A/48/487, annex.

6/ A/48/15 (vol. I).

7/ A/48/15 (vol. II).